

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently presented and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, Claims 8-24 having previously been withdrawn from consideration. Independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 25 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is added.

In the Final Office Action of January 30, 2007 (herein, the Final Office Action), Claims 1-7 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,111,299 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter Aoki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,898,434 to Small et al. (hereinafter Small).

The Final Office Action cites Aoki as disclosing the Applicant's invention with the exception of the claimed details regarding the recording and playback buttons displayed on the first and second user interfaces. The Official Action cites Small as disclosing this claimed feature and asserts that it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the cited references to arrive at Applicants claims. Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 25 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus, comprising, in part:

display controlling unit configured to provide display control in such a manner as to display a first user interface when said recording unit records said first picture supplied and to display a second user interface when said reproducing unit reproduces said second picture recorded;

wherein said first user interface displays a recording button through which to input orders for operating said recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating said reproducing unit and said second user interface displays a recording button through which to input

¹ e.g., specification Figs. 10 and 14, and pp. 33-34 and pp. 37-38.

orders for operating said recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating said reproducing unit, and

wherein said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status and said playback button in a second status and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status.

As shown in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 10, and pp. 33-34, when a recording interface is displayed, the recording button (142) is replaced on the display by a recording time change button (151) (e.g. changed to active) and the playback button (144) is shown to be inactive. On the other hand, as shown at Fig. 14 and pp. 37-38 of the specification, when the reproduction interface is displayed, the recording button (142) is shown as inactive and the playback button (144) is indicated as being active.

Independent Claims 6, 7 and 25, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 25.

As admitted in the Final Office Action, Aoki fails to teach or suggest the claimed features directed to the button configuration of the user interfaces. In an attempt to remedy this deficiency, the Final Office Action cites Fig. 11 and col. 15, line 49-col. 16, line 3 of Small.

This cited portion of Small is directed to using an active sound element (178) to mark and associate an image with an instance of the element using sound dialogue box (180). Specifically, a user associates a picture (182) to the sound element by using the record button (184) to activate a recorder of the computer, and the user could then playback the recorded sound by selecting play button (186), or by selecting the instance of the sound element attached to the picture.

Small, however, fails to teach or suggest that a first user interface (e.g. recording interface) displays a recording button in a first status and a playback button in a second status

and that a second user interface (e.g. playback interface) displays a recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Instead, as clearly depicted in Fig. 11 of Small, the record button (184) and playback button (186) are displayed in a same manner regardless of whether the recorded sound is being recorded or played back. Therefore, Small fails to teach or suggest that each or the displayed buttons reflect a status, whatsoever, much less that the status of each of the buttons change based on which interface is displayed, as recited in the pending independent claims.

Further, as noted above, p. 3 of the Final Office Action admits that Aoki fails to teach or suggest "wherein said first user interface displays a recording button through which to input orders for operating said recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating said reproducing unit and said second user interface...", and therefore also fails to teach or suggest the above noted features directed to the status of the buttons, as recited in the pending independent claims.

Therefore, Small and Aoki, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest the user interface recited in the pending independent claims, wherein "***said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status and said playback button in a second status and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status.***"

Accordingly, at least for the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-7 and 25 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

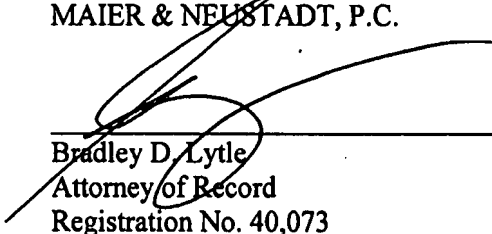
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